UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Qwest Communications International Inc.
1801 California St., #900
Denver, CO 80202

EXAMINER
RYAN, PATRICK A

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 July 2010*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.　　　2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-55* is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-55* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☐ All　b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is made in response to Request for Continued Examination,

received July 13, 2010. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 15, 27, 43, and 49; no claims

have been added; and no claims have been canceled. As amended, Claims 1-55 are

presented for examination.

2.   In Office Action of October 14, 2009 (Office Action):

Claims 1 through 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Zimmers et al. United States Patent (6,816,878 B1) in view of Hunter et al. United

States Patent (7,233,781 B2) and in further view of Edson United States Patent

(6,526,581 B1).

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR

1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been

withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 16, 2010

("Reply") has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments, see Reply Pages 15-19, have been fully considered, but

are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1 through 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Zimmers et al. United States Patent (6,816,878 B1), hereinafter "Zimmers"; in view

of Hunter et al. United States Patent (7,233,781 B2), hereinafter "Hunter"; view of Edson

United States Patent (6,526,581 B1); in further view of Horvitz et al. United States

Patent Application Publication (2003/0131142 A1) hereinafter "Horvitz".

6.   In regards to Claims 15, Zimmers teaches a relationship between a

telecommunication provider and a plurality of subscribers (network of computers

connected by computer network connection 102, as shown in Fig. 1), a method for

determining an appropriate set of addresses to which to distribute an alert (Fig. 4A

through Fig. 4H), the method comprising:

maintaining a directory of alert gateways (Fig. 4B and Fig. 4E, as

described in Col. 18 Lines 22-67 and Col. 20 Lines 1-14), the directory

comprising a plurality of directory entries (this limitations is met because multiple

persons are intended to receive alert notifications, as disclosed in Zimmer

Abstract and, therefore, a directory entry would be required for each user or

household), each directory entry being associated with a particular alert gateway

and comprising at least one gateway characteristic associated with that alert

gateway (subscriber information table 184 of Fig. 3C with: Fields 200 - 206 ["alert

gateway database entry"], such as, customer number, caller ID, Email, or IP

address, and Fields 208 - 232 ["gateway characteristic"], such as ZIP code,

latitude and longitude, or the special needs of a user), the gateway characteristic

including information to enable the alert distribution device to determine whether

a given alert should be transmitted to the alert gateway (Fields 208 - 232, as

described in Col. 14 Lines 25-66);

maintaining a distribution address associated with each of the alert

gateways, the distribution address for a particular alert gateway providing

sufficient identifying information about that alert gateway to allow an alert to be

transmitted to the alert gateway (Fig. 4B and Fig. 4E, as described in Col. 18

Lines 22-67 and Col. 20 Lines 1-14);

associating the at least one gateway characteristic for a particular alert

gateway with the distribution address for that particular alert gateway (data

describing the subscriber in elements 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, and 194 are

commonly linked by customer number/identifier shown as elements 200, 260,

320, 330, 350, and 360 respectively, As described in Col. 14 Lines 3-24; these

tables are generated using the processes of Fig. 4B and Fig. 4E, as described in

Col. 18 Lines 22-67 and Col. 20 Lines 1-14);

receiving an alert, the alert <u>being configured to describe an event and</u>

having associated information about the alert <u>comprising event information</u>

<u>characterizing the event</u> (Figs. 4A, 4B, and 4D show the processes for receiving

an alert notification from various sources. For example, from Emergency

Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) of Fig. 4A, as described in

Col. 17 Lines 53-67 and Col. 18 Lines 1-21; with additional reference to Fig. 2

showing additional information transmitted with the alert.);

having associated information about the alert

identifying, based on the information about the alert, a set of selection

criteria for determining which of the plurality of alert gateways should receive the

alert (Fig. 4F, decision block 532 "Determine Type of Notification", as described

in Col. 20 Lines 21-25; with further reference to the "patter matching and parsing"

aspects of Fig. 4A, as described in Col. 18 Lines 4-21);

searching the directory for at least one directory entry comprising a

gateway characteristic corresponding to the identified selection criteria

(depending on the nature of the alert received, one of Figs. 5B, 6B, 7B, 8B, 9B,

10B, or 11 is performed in which a particular subscriber characteristic is use to

determine if the alert should be sent to the individual, such as counties and zip

codes in reference to Fig. 5B. The act of searching needs to be performed in

order to determine the subscribers who meet the selection criteria); and

identifying, based on the search, a set of at least one distribution address

that should receive the alert, each member of the set of distribution addresses

being associated with a directory entry comprising a gateway characteristic that

corresponds to the identified selection criteria (step 620 database query system

112 retrieves all station identifiers of subscribers with matching criteria to the

information contained in the alert);

Zimmers teaches distributing information about the alert to users of

communication devices such as wired phones, cellular phones, fax machines, and

computers within in a home or business setting (as discussed in Col. 4 Lines 17-60 and

Col. 11 Lines 34-49). In addition, Zimmers discuses various modes of contact to

provide alert information to users such as telephone number, e-mail address, or TCP/IP

address (with reference to Col. 14 Lines 3-24). Zimmers also teaches a process of

formatting data packets for distributing the alert one of the various user communication

devices such as an Email Address at Step 574, a TCP/IP Address at Step 580, a

Numeric Page at Step 586, or an Alphanumeric Pager at Step 592 (as shown in Fig. 4G

and described in Col. 20 Line 66—Col. 21 Line 32). This contact information is

organized into subscriber information table 184 of Fig. 3C with: Fields 200 - 206 ["alert

gateway database entry"], such as, customer number, caller ID, Email, or IP address,

and Fields 208 - 232 ["gateway characteristic"], such as ZIP code, latitude and

longitude, or the special needs of a user, which are used to transmit targeted alerts to

the subscriber's location (Regions 140,142,144,146,148,150 of Fig. 1, as described in

Col. 11 Line 10—Col. 12 Line 31).

However, within the teachings of Zimmers, it is unclear if the alert gateway is in communication with two or more types of subscriber equipment and is configured to analyze the alert and to determine to which of the two or more types of subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a function of analyzing the alert.

In a similar field of invention, Edson teaches a gateway device for an in-home communications network that utilizes several available in-home digital networking media to connect the gateway to device interfaces for communication with various external networks (Abstract, Fig. 1). Edson discloses various in-home devices connected to the Gateway 13 such as Audio System Component 34, Telephone 32, Printer 33, Alarm System 34, Appliance 41, TV 42, and Computer 43 (as shown in Fig. 1 and described in Col. 7 Line 35— Col. 9 Line 7). Furthermore, Edson's Gateway 13 interfaces with a number of external networks such as ADSL 15, CATV 17, and X-LINK 19 (as described in Col. 5 Lines 45-56). Edson additionally discloses that the Gateway 13 is capable of accommodating multiple sessions from multiple devices at the same time (with reference to Col. 6 Line 57—Col. 7 Line 9). Edson also discloses that Router 103, in conjunction with CPU 105, of Gateway 13 prioritizes and routs various communications between the internal device and between the devices and the external communication facilities (Col. 11 Lines 3-19).

Zimmers discloses distributing information about an alert to users of communication devices such as wired phones, cellular phones, fax machines, and computers within in home or business locations. Edson demonstrates a need for a home network product that provides a simple common interface usable by a wide range

of systems and appliances within the user's location (Col. 2 Line 64—Col. 3 Line 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the alert information distribution system of Zimmers with the home

gateway device of Edson in order to increase the versatility and compatibility of alert

distribution methods with various home electronic devices (as Edson suggests in Col. 2

Line 64—Col. 3 Line 8).

Edson does not explicitly discuss the reception of information about an alert from

a distribution facility. In a similar field of invention, Hunter teaches a method and

system for dissemination emergency notification information to a select subset of users

based on the subject matter of the notification (Abstract). Hunter further describes the

use of an Emergency Feedback and Notification (EFAN) System 100 and EFAN Device

110 (as generally shown in Fig. 2). As shown in Fig. 2, EFAN Device 110 can be

located at Residential Homes 102 or Office Buildings 104 and can be embodied as a

set-top box, as described in Col. 13 Lines 1-51. In addition, EFAN Device 110 functions

as an alert gateway by only allowing the selection of messages, using message

headers processed by Microprocessor 1108 of Fig. 4, that are intended for specific

households to be displayed on subscriber equipment, such as TV Device 1103 of Fig. 3,

as described in Col. 13 Line 52—Col. 14 Line 34; with further reference to Col. 3 Line

51—Col. 4 Line 44 and Col. 15 Lines 8-59.

The combination of Zimmers and Edson demonstrate a system for

communicating information to multiple individuals who are using a variety of electronic

devices. Hunter further demonstrates a need for a targeted dissemination of

emergency information to differing geographic areas containing individuals with different

personal needs or concerns (as disclosed in Col. 2 Lines 16-25). Therefore, one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to modify

the gateway and routing device of Edson to transfer targeted alert information for

reception on various electronic devices, such as the EFAN device of Hunter, in order to

increase the versatility and compatibility of alert distribution methods with various home

electronic devices (as Edson suggests in Col. 2 Line 64—Col. 3 Line 8 and as Hunter

suggests in Col. 1 Line 28—Col. 2 Line 25).

Zimmers discloses distributing event information about an alert to users of

communication devices such as wired phones, cellular phones, fax machines, and

computers within in home or business locations. Edson and Hunter teach local

distribution of alert information to two or more types of subscriber equipment. However,

the combination does not clearly demonstrate wherein the alert gateway is configured to

analyze the <u>event information</u> and to determine to which of the two or more types of

subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a function of analyzing the <u>event</u>

<u>information</u>.

In a similar field of invention, Horvitz teaches a method and system for providing

an information schema for controlling the sending of data to a user, such as a

notification, in accordance with the user's information preference settings (Abstract).

Horvitz's system (Notification Platform 500 of Fig. 5) comprises an Information Agent

Service 504 acting as a gateway between Information Sources 503_1-503_n and Devices

508_1-508_n (as described in Paragraphs [0158-0159,0174-0175]). Horvitz additionally

discloses providing event information characterizing an event by way of attributes that detail the type of content in the body of a notification, such as textOnly, textAudio, textGraphics, AudioGraphics, etc. (Paragraph [0162]; with further reference to Paragraphs [0160-0161,0163]). Horvitz also demonstrates determining to which of the two or more types of subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a function of analyzing the event information (rendering preferences allow for a piece of content to be summarized in different ways depending on the device rendering capabilities, as described in Paragraph [0165-0171]; with particular reference to providing a notification to a cell phone or desktop device, as described in Paragraphs [0165]).

The combination of Zimmers, Edson, and Hunter teach a technique for distributing an alert to one of multiple devices by way of an alert gateway, where the receiving device is selected based on a transmission protocol. Horvitz teaches a technique for distributing an alert to one of multiple devices by way of an alert gateway, where the receiving device is selected based on the capabilities of the device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the technique of Zimmers, Edson, and Hunter to allow for providing an alert as a function of analyzing event information, as taught by Horvitz, in order to optimally display the information on the selected device (as Horvitz suggests in Paragraphs [0165-0166]).

7.   In regards to Claim 16, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 15, wherein the at least one gateway characteristic associated with each of the alert gateways comprises information about the geographic

location of the alert gateway (selected data entries of Fig. 3C, such as Latitude,

Longitude, Elevation, Postal Zip Code, or Physical Address, as described by Zimmers in

Cols. 14-16 and Col. 17 Lines 1-52).

8.   In regards to Claim 17, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz

teach the method of Claim 16, wherein the information about the alert comprises

geographic information about a geographic area to which the alert pertains, such that

subscribers outside the geographic area would be relatively unlikely to be interested in

receiving the alert (Zimmers teaches alert notification of Fig. 2, which contains county

information 124 and town information 122, as described in Col. 8 Lines 42-67 and Col. 9

Lines 1-3).

9.   In regards to Claim 18, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz

teach the method of Claim 15, wherein the directory entry for each alert gateway

comprises information about a distribution address for that alert gateway (Zimmers

teaches subscriber information table 184 contains information regarding ANI (Caller ID),

Email, and TCP/IP, which are associated with a telephone number, email address, or

Internet Protocol address respectively), and wherein maintaining a distribution address

associated with each of the alert gateways comprises maintaining the information about

the distribution address (Zimmers Fig. 4B and Fig. 4E, as described in Col. 18 Lines 22-

67 and Col. 20 Lines 1-14).

10.   In regards to Claim 19, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz

teach the method of Claim 15, wherein the directory of alert gateways comprises a first

database (Zimmers teaches tables of Fig. 3 are stored in database server 104, as disclosed in Col. 13 Lines 20-25).

11.   In regards to Claim 20, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 19, wherein the distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways are maintained in a second database (Zimmers teaches database query system 112 generates packet data containing the information shown in TABLE III of Col. 12. The packet data is sent to an intended destination based on the "Station ID" and "Station ID Type", as described in Col. 12 Lines 32-67 and Col. 13 Lines 1-19).

12.   In regards to Claim 21, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 15, wherein the at least one gateway characteristic associated with an alert gateway comprises information selected from the group consisting of the area code in which the alert gateway is located, the ZIP code in which the alert gateway is located, the latitude and longitude coordinates of the alert gateway, the Global Positioning System coordinates of the alert gateway, demographic information about a subscriber associated with the alert gateway, and information about subscriber preferences held by a subscriber associated with the alert gateway (Zimmers teaches subscriber information table of Fig. 3C, as described in Cols. 14-16 and Col. 17 Lines 1-52).

13.   In regards to Claim 22, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 15, wherein the alert comprises urgent public information (Zimmers discloses various applications of the alert system, some examples of which are disclosed in Col. 11 Lines 10-18).

14.   In regards to Claim 23, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 22, wherein the urgent public information is selected from a group consisting of an Emergency Alert System transmission, an Amber Alert, a severe weather notification, and a Homeland Security Advisory notification (in addition to the examples cited in reference to Claim 22, Zimmers teaches a specific application is shown in Fig. 2 regarding an alert sent by the National Weather Service (NWS), as described in Col. 8 Lines 30-67 and Col. 9 Lines 1-12).

15.   In regards to Claim 24, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 15, wherein the information about the alert is incorporated within the alert (Zimmers teaches the alert transmitted from the NWS is transmitted using the ENWIN data stream, which is an alphanumeric text based system, as disclosed in Col. 8 Lines 30-41, so all information transmitted would be part of the data stream and therefore part of the alert).

16.   In regards to Claim 25, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 15, wherein the alert information about the alert is additional to the alert (Zimmers teaches "the body of the NWS message may also be inserted into a facsimile message, sent as an electronic mail message, read via a computer-generated voice over the telephone, or forwarded to a text pager", as disclosed in Col. 9 Lines 4-7, these communications would require additional information to be added to the text data of the NWS data stream in order to be transmitted, for example, as an email notification).

17.   In regards to Claim 26, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz

teach the method of Claim 15, further comprising extracting from the alert the

information about the alert (Zimmers teaches data parsing process shown in Fig. 4A, as

described in Col. 17 Lines 53-67 and Col. 18 Lines 1-21).

18.   In regards to Claim 49, Zimmers teaches a relationship between a

telecommunication provider and a plurality of subscribers (network of computers

connected by computer network connection 102, as shown in Fig. 1), a method for

determining an appropriate set of addresses to which to distribute an alert (Fig. 4A

through Fig. 4H), the method comprising the steps addressed in Claim 15 and

additionally:

the event including information about a geographic area to which the alert

pertains, such that subscribers outside the geographic area would be relatively unlikely

to be interested in receiving the alert (alert notification of Fig. 2, which contains county

information 124 and town information 122, as described in Col. 8 Lines 42-67 and Col. 9

Lines 1-3); and

transmitting the alert to members of a set of distribution addresses (step 620

database query system 112 retrieves all station identifiers of subscribers with matching

criteria to the information contained in the alert).

Zimmers teaches distributing information about the alert to users of

communication devices such as wired phones, cellular phones, fax machines, and

computers within in a home or business setting (as discussed in Col. 4 Lines 17-60 and

Col. 11 Lines 34-49). In addition, Zimmers discuses various modes of contact to

provide alert information to users such as telephone number, e-mail address, or TCP/IP

address (with reference to Col. 14 Lines 3-24). Zimmers also teaches a process of

formatting data packets for distributing the alert one of the various user communication

devices such as an Email Address at Step 574, a TCP/IP Address at Step 580, a

Numeric Page at Step 586, or an Alphanumeric Pager at Step 592 (as shown in Fig. 4G

and described in Col. 20 Line 66—Col. 21 Line 32). This contact information is

organized into subscriber information table 184 of Fig. 3C with: Fields 200 - 206 ["alert

gateway database entry"], such as, customer number, caller ID, Email, or IP address,

and Fields 208 - 232 ["gateway characteristic"], such as ZIP code, latitude and

longitude, or the special needs of a user, which are used to transmit targeted alerts to

the subscriber's location (Regions 140,142,144,146,148,150 of Fig. 1, as described in

Col. 11 Line 10—Col. 12 Line 31).

However, within the teachings of Zimmers, it is unclear if the alert gateway is in

communication with two or more types of subscriber equipment and is configured to

analyze the alert and to determine to which of the two or more types of subscriber

equipment to provide the alert as a function of analyzing the alert.

In a similar field of invention, Edson teaches a gateway device for an in-home

communications network that utilizes several available in-home digital networking media

to connect the gateway to device interfaces for communication with various external

networks (Abstract, Fig. 1). Edson discloses various in-home devices connected to the

Gateway 13 such as Audio System Component 34, Telephone 32, Printer 33, Alarm

System 34, Appliance 41, TV 42, and Computer 43 (as shown in Fig. 1 and described in

Col. 7 Line 35— Col. 9 Line 7). Furthermore, Edson's Gateway 13 interfaces with a

number of external networks such as ADSL 15, CATV 17, and X-LINK 19 (as described

in Col. 5 Lines 45-56). Edson additionally discloses that the Gateway 13 is capable of

accommodating multiple sessions from multiple devices at the same time (with

reference to Col. 6 Line 57—Col. 7 Line 9). Edson also discloses that Router 103, in

conjunction with CPU 105, of Gateway 13 prioritizes and routs various communications

between the internal device and between the devices and the external communication

facilities (Col. 11 Lines 3-19).

Zimmers discloses distributing information about an alert to users of

communication devices such as wired phones, cellular phones, fax machines, and

computers within in home or business locations. Edson demonstrates a need for a

home network product that provides a simple common interface usable by a wide range

of systems and appliances within the user's location (Col. 2 Line 64—Col. 3 Line 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the alert information distribution system of Zimmers with the home

gateway device of Edson in order to increase the versatility and compatibility of alert

distribution methods with various home electronic devices (as Edson suggests in Col. 2

Line 64—Col. 3 Line 8).

Edson does not explicitly discuss the reception of information about an alert from

a distribution facility. In a similar field of invention, Hunter teaches a method and

system for dissemination emergency notification information to a select subset of users

based on the subject matter of the notification (Abstract). Hunter further describes the

use of an Emergency Feedback and Notification (EFAN) System 100 and EFAN Device

110 (as generally shown in Fig. 2). As shown in Fig. 2, EFAN Device 110 can be

located at Residential Homes 102 or Office Buildings 104 and can be embodied as a

set-top box, as described in Col. 13 Lines 1-51. In addition, EFAN Device 110 functions

as an alert gateway by only allowing the selection of messages, using message

headers processed by Microprocessor 1108 of Fig. 4, that are intended for specific

households to be displayed on subscriber equipment, such as TV Device 1103 of Fig. 3,

as described in Col. 13 Line 52—Col. 14 Line 34; with further reference to Col. 3 Line

51—Col. 4 Line 44 and Col. 15 Lines 8-59.

The combination of Zimmers and Edson demonstrate a system for

communicating information to multiple individuals who are using a variety of electronic

devices. Hunter further demonstrates a need for a targeted dissemination of

emergency information to differing geographic areas containing individuals with different

personal needs or concerns (as disclosed in Col. 2 Lines 16-25). Therefore, one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to modify

the gateway and routing device of Edson to transfer targeted alert information for

reception on various electronic devices, such as the EFAN device of Hunter, in order to

increase the versatility and compatibility of alert distribution methods with various home

electronic devices (as Edson suggests in Col. 2 Line 64—Col. 3 Line 8 and as Hunter

suggests in Col. 1 Line 28—Col. 2 Line 25).

Zimmers discloses distributing event information about an alert to users of

communication devices such as wired phones, cellular phones, fax machines, and

computers within in home or business locations. Edson and Hunter teach local

distribution of alert information to two or more types of subscriber equipment. However,

the combination does not clearly demonstrate wherein the alert gateway is configured to

analyze the event information and to determine to which of the two or more types of

subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a function of analyzing the event

information.

In a similar field of invention, Horvitz teaches a method and system for providing

an information schema for controlling the sending of data to a user, such as a

notification, in accordance with the user's information preference settings (Abstract).

Horvitz's system (Notification Platform 500 of Fig. 5) comprises an Information Agent

Service 504 acting as a gateway between Information Sources 503_1-503_n and Devices

508_1-508_n (as described in Paragraphs [0158-0159,0174-0175]). Horvitz additionally

discloses providing event information characterizing an event by way of attributes that

detail the type of content in the body of a notification, such as textOnly, textAudio,

textGraphics, AudioGraphics, etc. (Paragraph [0162]; with further reference to

Paragraphs [0160-0161,0163]). Horvitz also demonstrates determining to which of the

two or more types of subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a function of

analyzing the event information (rendering preferences allow for a piece of content to be

summarized in different ways depending on the device rendering capabilities, as

described in Paragraph [0165-0171]; with particular reference to providing a notification to a cell phone or desktop device, as described in Paragraphs [0165]).

The combination of Zimmers, Edson, and Hunter teach a technique for distributing an alert to one of multiple devices by way of an alert gateway, where the receiving device is selected based on a transmission protocol. Horvitz teaches a technique for distributing an alert to one of multiple devices by way of an alert gateway, where the receiving device is selected based on the capabilities of the device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the technique of Zimmers, Edson, and Hunter to allow for providing an alert as a function of analyzing event information, as taught by Horvitz, in order to optimally display the information on the selected device (as Horvitz suggests in Paragraphs [0165-0166]).

19.   In regards to Claim 50, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 49, wherein at least one of the plurality of alert gateways is incorporated within a network interface device located at a subscriber location (Router 103 of Edson, as shown in Fig. 2 and described in Col. 9 Line 51—Col. 11 Line 19).

20.   In regards to Claim 51, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz teach the method of Claim 49, wherein at least one of the plurality of alert gateways is in communication with a network interface device located at a subscriber location (network interfaces 311-314 and 321-323 of Fig. 1, as further detailed in Fig. 4 and described in Col. 13 Line 17—Col. 14 Line 67).

21. The limitations of Claim 52 have been addresses with reference to Claim 49 and Claim 21.

22. The limitations of Claim 53 have been addresses with reference to Claim 49 and Claim 22.

23. The limitations of Claim 54 have been addresses with reference to Claim 49, Claim 22, and Claim 23.

24. In regards to Claim 1, Zimmers teaches a relationship between a telecommunication provider and a plurality of subscribers (network of computers connected by computer network connection 102, as shown in Fig. 1), a device for determining an appropriate set of addresses to which to distribute an alert (database query system 112, as described in Col. 11 Lines 27-33), the device comprising: at least one interface member in communication with a communication network (data base query system 112 is in communication with at least web server 114 and IVR system 116, as described in Col. 7 Lines 2-7, therefore database query system contains an IP network interface); a processor in communication with the at least one interface member (database query system 112 may also "instruct web server 114 to deliver the alert notification", as disclosed in Col. 12 Lines 22-31); and a storage medium in communication with the processor (database query system 112 performs comparisons, such as that of Fig. 4F, which require known data, such as Table III, therefore database query system 112 must contain a storage medium), the storage medium comprising

instructions executable by the processor to perform the method of Claim 15 (see the

analysis of Claim 15 for references to these limitations).

25.   The limitations of Claim 2 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 16.

26.   The limitations of Claim 3 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1, Claim

16, and Claim 17.

27.   The limitations of Claim 4 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 18.

28.   The limitations of Claim 5 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 19.

29.   The limitations of Claim 6 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1, Claim

19, and Claim 20.

30.   The limitations of Claim 7 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 21.

31.   The limitations of Claim 8 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 22.

32.   The limitations of Claim 9 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 23.

33.   The limitations of Claim 10 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 24.

34.   The limitations of Claim 11 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 25.

35.   The limitations of Claim 12 have been addresses with reference to Claim 1 and

Claim 26.

36.   In regards to Claim 13, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz

teach the device of Claim 1, wherein the communication network is selected from a

group consisting of a radio-frequency transmission, a telephone network, a cable

television distribution network, the Internet, a fiber-optic network, a high-speed data

network, a wireless network, and a microwave network (Zimmers teaches in Fig. 1, alert

notification system 100 consists of communication channels such as FM receiver 110,

IP through web server 114, or public switched telecommunications network 136).

37.   In regards to Claim 14, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz

teach the device of Claim 1, wherein the communication network is a plurality of

communication networks and wherein, for a particular distribution address, the device is

configured to select the most appropriate communication network via which to transmit

the alert information to the particular distribution address (Zimmers teaches in Fig. 1,

alert notification system 100 consists of communication channels such as FM receiver

110, IP through web server 114, or public switched telecommunications network 136.

In addition, database query system 112 can determine the appropriate transmission

channel using the process of Fig. 4F, as described in Col. 20 Lines 15-65).

38.   In regards to Claim 55, the combination of Zimmers, Edson, Hunter, and Horvitz

teach the device of Clam 1, wherein the alert gateway transmits the alert to the

subscriber equipment (as shown in Claim 15, Edson teaches Gateway 13 and Hunter

teaches the distribution of alert information to subscriber equipment, namely EFAN

Device 110).

39.　　In regards to Claim 27, Zimmers teaches a relationship between a

telecommunication provider and a plurality of subscribers, a system for distributing an

alert to an appropriate set of subscribers (alert notification system 100 of Fig. 1), the

system comprising:

　　　　a communication network in communication with the plurality of subscribers

(computer network connection 102, as described in Col. 6 Lines 36-67 and Col. 7 Lines

1-6); and an alert distribution device in communication with the communication network

(database query system 112, as described in Col. 8 Lines 24-29), the alert distribution

device comprising: at least one interface member in communication with the network; a

processor in communication with the at least one interface member; and a storage

medium in communication with the processor (the elements of database query system

112 have been addressed with reference to Claim 1), the storage medium comprising

instructions executable by the processor to perform the method of Claim 49 (see the

analysis of Claim 49 for references to these limitations).

40.　　The limitations of Claim 28 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 16.

41.　　The limitations of Claim 29 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27,

Claim 16, and Claim 17.

42.   The limitations of Claim 30 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 18.

43.   The limitations of Claim 31 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 19.

44.   The limitations of Claim 32 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 20.

45.   The limitations of Claim 33 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 21.

46.   The limitations of Claim 34 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 50.

47.   The limitations of Claim 35 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 51.

48.   The limitations of Claim 36 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 22.

49.   The limitations of Claim 37 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27,

Claim 22, and Claim 23.

50.   The limitations of Claim 38 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 24.

51.   The limitations of Claim 39 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 25.

52.   The limitations of Claim 40 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 26.

53.   The limitations of Claim 41 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 13.

54.   The limitations of Claim 42 have been addresses with reference to Claim 27 and

Claim 14.

55.   In regards to Claim 43, Zimmers teaches a relationship between a

telecommunication provider and a plurality of subscribers, a system for distributing an

alert to an appropriate set of subscribers (alert notification system 100 of Fig. 1), the

system comprising:

       a network configured to provide communication with the plurality of subscribers

(computer network connection 102, as described in Col. 6 Lines 36-67 and Col. 7 Lines

1-6); and an alert distribution device in communication with the communication network

(database query system 112, as described in Col. 8 Lines 24-29), the alert distribution

device comprising: at least one interface member in communication with the network; a

processor in communication with the at least one interface member; and a storage

medium in communication with the processor (the elements of database query system

112 have been addressed with reference to Claim 1), the storage medium comprising

instructions executable by the processor to perform the method of Claims 27 and 49

(see the analysis of Claims 27 and 49 for references to these limitations).

56.   The limitations of Claim 44 have been addresses with reference to Claim 43 and

Claim 34.

57.   The limitations of Claim 45 have been addresses with reference to Claim 43 and

Claim 35.

58.   The limitations of Claim 46 have been addresses with reference to Claim 43 and

Claim 22.

59.   The limitations of Claim 47 have been addresses with reference to Claim 43,

Claim 22, and Claim 23.

60.   The limitations of Claim 48 have been addresses with reference to Claim 43 and

Claim 21.

Conclusion

61.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to PATRICK A. RYAN whose telephone number is

(571)270-5086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Thur, 8:30am -

6:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Scott Beliveau can be reached on (571) 272-7343. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. A. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 2427
Thursday, September 23, 2010

/Scott Beliveau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2427